Court Orders New Arrest in Kennedy 'Plot'

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NEW ORLEANS, March 27 (UPI).—District Attorney Jim Garrison's office obtained a court order Monday for the arrest of a former New Orleans woman who contradicted testimony of Garrison's star witness against businessman Clay L. Shaw.

Bond was set at $5000 for Sandra Moffitt, "alias Lilly Mae McMaines," of Omaha, Neb. She was ordered picked up as a material witness in Garrison's investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

TELLS OF PARTY

Perry R. Russo, a 25-year-old Baton Rouge, La., insurance salesman, testified in Shaw's preliminary hearing March 14-17 that he attended a party with Miss Moffitt in September of 1963 at which Shaw helped plot Mr. Kennedy's death.

A three-judge panel ordered Shaw held over following the preliminary hearing. Shaw later was indicted by a grand jury on charges of conspiring to murder Mr. Kennedy.

In another development, an attorney on tri..l in a $3 million insurance fraud case told a judge he was forced off a highway at gunpoint Monday as he drove to Bismarck, N.D., with documents that "prove" that President Kennedy was assassinated by killers other than Lee Harvey Oswald.

MISTRIAL DECLARED

The judge promptly declared a mistrial and ordered a mental examination for the attorney.

The bizarre story was told by attorney David R. Kroman, 43,

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who was found partially conscious—a loaded shotgun across his knees — at 4 A.M. in a rented car on the shoulder of a highway about 30 miles east of Bismarck.

Kroman said he was convinced that the highway incident was connected with his investigation of the Kennedy assassination and not with his trial.

Kroman said he has been in touch with Garrison.

The party involving Miss Moffitt was at the apartment of the late David W. Ferrie, the mysterious pilot who died this year of a brain hemorrhage, according to Percy Russo's testimony. Russo said Lee Harvey Oswald, assassin of the President, and Ferrie were the two coconspirators.

LIE TEST PROPOSED

But the young woman told newsmen in Omaha last week that she did not go to the party and that she never met Ferrie until 1965.

Another witness who challenged Garrison's view of the assassination said by telephone from an undisclosed location Monday that Garrison ought to take a lie detector test to show whether the whole thing is a fraud or not.

Gordon Novel, who sold his saloon and slipped out of New Orleans last week just before the grand jury subpenaed him, issued the challenge through Jack Dempsey, a reporter for the New Orleans States-Item.

ADVISED BY JUDGE

Novel telephoned the challenge to Dempsey. There was little chance Garrison would comment since a trial judge advised him Monday not to make any statements about Shaw's forthcoming trial.

The Warren Commission, which questioned thousands of witnesses, reported that Oswald alone killed Mr. Kennedy in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, and there was no evidence he conspired with anybody.

Novel charged in Columbus, O., last week that the whole Garrison investigation was a fraud for the sake of political ambition.

SEEKS BOND CUT

Novel's attorney, Steve Plotkin, moved to reduce Novel's $50,000 bond so that Novel could return to New Orleans without going to jail.

Plotkin declined to say where his client was, but said the $50,000 bond was excessive and Novel could not make it.

Novel has been ordered by a New Orleans court to return immediately as a "material witness" or be arrested as a fugitive.

In a later development, assistant district attorney, James Alcock said he sent a letter to U. S. Attorney Louis Lacour here advising Lacour that Garrison's office will ask that Novel be charged with unlawful flight.

If Garrison is successful in the move, it would bring the FBI into the search for Novel.

Judge Edward A. Haggerty, Jr., who will preside when Shaw becomes the first man ever tried as a conspirator in the assassination of President Kennedy, advised both Garrison's office and defense attorneys Monday not to make any further public statements about Shaw's possible innocence or guilt or about evidence in the case.